

Office of Primary Care and Rural Health
State Primary Care Grants Program for Medically Underserved Populations

Function

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health continues to be a resource for Utah's rural, multi-cultural, and underserved communities. The office works with communities that need assistance in conducting needs assessments, recruiting health care professionals, grant writing, identifying sources of funding, and implementing other projects related to decreasing disparity and increasing access to primary health care.

Program Description

The State Primary Care Grants Program for Medically Underserved Populations makes grants to public and nonprofit entities for the cost of providing primary health care services to medically underserved populations. The program strives to decrease the number of individuals without access to appropriate, high quality, cost-effective primary health care by making these grants to qualified provider organizations. The program targets Utah's low-income populations, who have no health insurance, or whose health insurance does not cover

primary health care services and do not qualify for Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, or other government insurance programs. The scope of this program includes populations in medically underserved areas, including the working poor, individuals with chronic diseases, children of low income families, the homeless, Native Americans, seasonal and migrant farm workers, and other disadvantaged groups.

Appropriation

The 1996 and 1997 Legislatures approved \$350,000 from Mineral Lease Funds for a State Primary Care Grants Program. The 1998 Legislature increased the funding to \$500,000. This amount was also appropriated in 1999 for FY 2000 and FY 2001, but the source of the funding switched in FY 2001 to the Medicaid Restricted Account. Since FY 2002, the funding for the State Primary Care Grants Program has been from the General Fund.

Key Facts

The performance measures in this program area monitor both the efficiency of the office and the funding available from the Legislature. Processing the awards is an important aspect of the program to assure funding to serve targeted populations. Our state's

medically underserved (uninsured and underinsured, minority, geographically isolated) populations are also served by several, federally supported community, migrant and homeless health centers. These centers depend on a combination of federal, state and local funds that include many donations and some funding from patient care billings (primarily self-pay patients on sliding-fee

schedules and Medicaid clients). The ultimate number of awards is based on the amount of funds available and the purposes for which they are allocated.

Intent Language

The Legislature included intent language for the State Primary Care Grants Program in the FY 2006 New Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act (S.B. 4). The 2007 New Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.B. 150), changed some of the amounts of money that could be considered nonlapsing.

The table below details the number of awards and the funding allocated according to the type of project.

STATE PRIMARY CARE GRANTS PROGRAM HISTORY						
	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	Cumulative
Rural						
Projects Awarded	13	17	20	27	28	105
Individuals Served	1,778	5,511	5,720	10,667	14,430	38,106
Urban						
Projects Awarded	13	11	14	21	28	87
Individuals Served	5,923	8,215	7,308	2,670	10,600	34,716
Total Projects	26	28	34	48	56	192
Total Served	7,701	13,726	13,028	13,337	25,030	72,822
Funds	\$685,700	\$966,700	\$1,417,737	\$1,588,400	\$1,739,881	\$6,398,418

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